

SN: 09/834,875

29565/KC15,490
PatentREMARKS

No Claims have been canceled. No Claims have been added. Claim 41 has been amended. Applicants submit that all amendments herein are supported by the application-as-filed and that no new matter has been added. Claims 1-33 and 38-52 remain in the application.

Response to Restriction Requirement

On September 16, 2002, the examiner called the undersigned with a Restriction Requirement, as follows.

Group I - Method Claims 1-33 and 38-40

Group II - Article Claims 41-52.

Applicants herewith elect, with traverse, Group II, Article Claims 41-52.

Applicants submit that all claims as presented herein are allowable over all references of record. Allowance is respectfully solicited. No fee is believed to be due. Should any fee be properly due, or if any refund is due, kindly charge same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-2130.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns, at the telephone number listed at the end of these remarks.

Respectfully submitted,
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PatentAPPENDIX AVERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Specification

Page 24, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 and ending on line 21 as follows.

--In other preferred embodiments of FIGURE 1B, web 26 travels [travel] along direction of manufacture 76 on a conveyor, roll, or the like, which maintains the relative positioning of web 26 with respect to such conveyor or roll by e.g. vacuum, suction, static forces, or any other means known in the art for maintaining the relative positioning of a web on a roll or conveyor at least until fasteners 66, 68 are applied to web 26. In such other preferred embodiments of FIGURE 1B, fault lines 32, 34 can comprise any of the above discussed embodiments of fault lines as well as a complete severances across the entirety of web 26. The roll or conveyor used in such embodiments sustains the positioning of a respective central fastening area 40A relative to adjacent upstream and downstream peripheral fastening areas 40B, such that fasteners 66, 68 can be applied to such areas of web 26 without unwanted overlap, shifting, or spacing of such areas, relative to each other.--

In the Claims

Kindly amend Claim 41 as follows.

41(Amended). A personal care absorbent article, comprising:

- (a) a front portion including opposing first and second lateral side portions (51, 53) defining respective first and second lateral side edges, and a

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central section (61) defining a fastening area between the first and second lateral side portions, first and second fault lines being disposed between the fastening area and the respective first and second lateral side portions[, the first and second fault lines precluding material of the front portion from independently supporting integrity of the front portion across the fault lines];

- (b) a rear portion including an outer rear edge;
- (c) a crotch portion extending between said front portion and said rear portion; and
- (d) first and second fasteners releasably secured to the fastening area, and non-releasably secured to the first and second lateral side portions of the front portion.